TODAY ON TV

CHANNELS

SAN DIEGO
6 XETV (Fox)
8 KFMB (CBS)
[illegible]TV (ABC)
[illegible]BS)

58 Math Works; Solve It
63 Everyday
69 Big Valley—Western
C-SPN House of Representatives
CNN NewsHour
DSC On the Go
DISN **Movie** ✓✓ "The Fantastic Adventures of Unico" (1984)
ESPN Bodies in Motion
(FNN) Midday Market Report
LIFE E.R.
NASH **Movie** ✓✓ "Trail of Robin [illegible]" (s) (1950) Roy Rogers.
[illegible] Today's Special
[illegible]rry Mason—Drama
[illegible]ie ✓✓ "Song of [illegible] Robert Taylor.
[illegible]lk

18 Chinese World TV
22 Financial News; Smart Money
28 Business & the Law
30 Glen Chambers
34 El Derecho de Nacer
39 Santa Barbara
46 Gift Shop
51 63 Trial by Jury
52 Cara a Cara
56 6 Perry Mason—Drama
58 Saudi Arabia; En Francais
69 **Movie** ✓✓✓ "A Girl Named Sooner" (1974) Lee Remick. (2 hr.)
AMC **Movie** ✓✓ "Sky Giant" (1938) Richard Dix. (1½ hr.)
A&E Comedy Break
CNN International Hour
DSC Passport
DISN Lunch Box
ESPN Billiards
(FNN) Wall Street Countdown
LIFE Born Famous
TMC **Movie** ✓ "Satisfaction" (s) (1988) Justine Bateman.
MTV Video Music
NASH Remodeling & Decorating
SHOW (cc) **Movie** ✓✓✓ "Three Men and a Baby" (1987) Tom Selleck. (PG) (2 hr.)
TBS Tom & Jerry's Funhouse
USA Couch Potatoes
[illegible]GN Facts of Life—Comedy (s)
[illegible]OR Magnum, P.I.

12:30 p.m.

[illegible] Bold and the Beautiful
[illegible]r Draw
[illegible]es

9 Mickey & Donald
10 People's Court
11 Muppet Babies
13 Police Academy
15 (cc) Sesame Street
18 Film Feature
22 Noticiero ECO
28 MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour
30 Richard Roberts—Religion
34 TV Mujer
39 Donahue—Talk
Nancy Reagan.
46 Jewelry Shop
50 (cc) Owl TV—Children
51 The Jetsons—Cartoon
58 Auto Shop Safety; (cc) Square One TV
63 DuckTales—Cartoon
69 Streets of San Francisco
A&E New Wilderness
C-SPN House of Representatives
Continues from 9 a.m.
CMAX **Movie** ✓✓✓ "Funny Face" (1957) Audrey Hepburn. (2 hr.)
CNN The World Today
DSC New Animal World
DISN Pooh Corner
ESPN Best of American Motorcycle Association
(FNN) Investment Advice
LIFE Attitudes
NASH American Magazine (s)
NICK Count Duckula
TBS Beverly Hillbillies
(TNT) Fraggle Rock
USA Tic Tac Dough
WGN (cc) Charles in Charge
WWOR Who's the Boss?

3:30 p.m.

3 USA Today
10 Win, Lose or Draw
11 6 Alvin & the Chipmunks
13 Ninja Turtles
24 (cc) Mister Rogers
30 Morris Cerullo
50 (cc) 3-2-1 Contact
[illegible] Super Mario Bros.
[illegible](cc) Square One TV (3:45)
[illegible]o 'n Dale's Rescue Rangers
[illegible] Profiles
[illegible]-In
[illegible]iness View
[illegible] Nature
[illegible]ctory
[illegible]medy

TV REVIEW

A Ruthian Clout for the Grand Old Game

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
TIMES TELEVISION CRITIC

Now that the baseball season has ended, it's time to talk . . . baseball.

To use *sportsspeak*, "Forever Baseball" can do it all. Airing at 9 tonight on Channels 28 and 15 as part of "The American Experience" on PBS, it's the Babe Ruth or Willie Mays of its genre, arguably the best TV program on baseball ever.

And, happily, it offers not a single word from a modern player, manager or owner. That comes *during* the season.

After the World Series was interrupted by the Bay Area's recent devastating earthquake, the common refrain was: "This puts baseball in context." Wrong. This *program* puts baseball in context—a lyrical, exhilarating hour using wonderful bits of history, old clips and insights from literati to show the game's uniqueness in American culture.

Television not only has dramatically changed the economic structure of baseball but also has made players seem less heroic through constant exposure. But the game's essence remains unaltered.

Baseball is more than America's enduring cliché; it's also America's song. The crack of the bat can't be described or explained, it must be heard. And it has been heard for 150 years. Producer-writer-narrator Irv Drasnin dusts off a quote: "I see great things in baseball. It's our game—the American game." The words are Walt Whitman's.

When troops from the North and South weren't fighting the Civil War, they sometimes played baseball. When Custer was being annihilated, somewhere else in America people were playing baseball.

It's this historical view—and the perception of baseball as the nation's common denominator—that makes Drasnin's video essay an upper-deck shot that clears the bases.

We see baseball as symbolic: It starts in the spring, a time for renewal. Baseball is now universal, not only geographically, but demographically: "Hit it right" applies to performance in all areas of life. There is also the learned baseball behavior, ingrained since youth. As Drasnin notes: "There is a way to talk, a way to stand, a way to move, and when the ball comes at you, a way to make it look easy." Yes, and we daydream about it throughout our lives.

Baseball transcends age. Painter Ralph Fasanella, 75, on his newspaper priorities: "This morning there are two important things, Poland and China, but I gotta go to baseball first."

The game transcends gender. Journalist-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, on absorbing baseball from her father, for whom she kept score on Brooklyn Dodgers games: "I felt like I was learning the wisdom of the ages from him."

Big-time baseball didn't always transcend race, however; indeed, it was a metaphor for segregation, as Drasnin recalls in an insightful sequence comparing the fortunes of Bob Feller and Satchel Paige.

There is extraordinary archival footage here, too—of the 1905 Giants, of the Babe demonstrating his swing to young players, of Lou Gehrig playing a cowboy in a movie.

Most of all, "Forever Baseball" defines a game that is hopeful, a game whose finality, unlike basketball and football, is not governed by a clock, a game that offers the possibility of miracles along with heartbreak.

What grand stuff, a program that hits it right. Break out the Cracker Jack.

Hawaii Film Festival Set

The ninth annual Hawaii International Film Festival, Nov. 26-Dec. 2 in Honolulu, will showcase the works of Chinese film makers to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Chinese immigrants on the islands.

Information: (808) 944-7666.

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Sam Silberman
Director of Programming

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Tuesday, November 7, 1989 The Pittsburgh Press

Great 'Experience'

PBS show sweetens a sour baseball season

Bill Modoono
TV Sports

GRANTED, THE TIMING is all wrong.

If there's one thing we don't need the first full week of November it's a televised celebration of baseball.

That's especially true this year when baseball has been devastated by the likes of Margo Adams, Pete Rose, the death of Bart Giamatti and a San Francisco earthquake.

But you should take an hour tonight (10, WQED-TV) to watch "Forever Baseball" on the PBS series, "The American Experience."

It's a depiction of the national pastime as sweet as parts of the 1989 season were sour.

"Forever Baseball" goes beyond the petty details of major-league seasons to get at the root of what makes the game appealing.

"So many of us look at baseball and find America," says narrator Irv Drasnin, who was the writer and producer of "Forever Baseball."

Drasnin said his intention in making the film was to place baseball in a historical and cultural context. To answer the question, "Why is it we take it so seriously?"

And he was determined to answer that without making yet another film that is a compilation of old clips of historic moments.

So Drasnin looked elsewhere.

He talked to people such as writer John Updike, artist Ralph Fasanella and poet Quincy Trŏupe.

He interviewed historians and even a paleontologist.

Did he answer the question?

Not really, but wrestling with the problem proves more enjoyable than any answer could be. Just to hear Doris Kearns Goodwin describe how she kept score of Brooklyn Dodgers games for her father makes the interviews worthwhile.

Moreover, Drasnin has come across rare and remarkable footage.

For instance, there's a brief movie scene featuring Lou Gehrig as an angry cowboy. Legendary thespian DeWolf Hopper is shown doing his rendition of "Casey at the Bat" that made the poem famous. And there's a remarkable conversation between Kid Gleason and Connie Mack in which the two joke about how the players of today have it easy. Of course, the "today" in that instance was 1930.

"We're always doing that," said Drasnin of that conversation. "In baseball, we're always reminiscing."

Not all the memories are sweet, however, and another asset of this documentary is its willingness to look at baseball's seamier side.

In a brief clip, the members of the 1919 "Black Sox" are shown in closeup. Nothing is said, but nothing has to be.

When Joe DiMaggio is featured, it is not because of what he accomplished on the field, so much as what he represented to a generation of American immigrants. Bob Feller is briefly featured, not because of his pitching prowess, but because he perpetuated the myth of farm boy making it big in baseball and in America.

"I wanted to show the relationship between the game and the country that goes beyond who wins or loses World Series games.

"I wanted to do this as a journalist. I wanted to transcend the mundane."

He does, masterfully. In fact, he does it in all aspects, including superb use of background music and old footage of children playing in the sandlots.

That some famous artists were willing to talk so freely on the subject probably says more about the game than anything.

"These people are like everybody else. They just love to talk baseball."

The show is on PBS, so its ratings will likely not be high. But, as Drasnin says, these kind of films tend to have a long afterlife in schools and libraries.

And well this one should.

Hunter and McCall after it appears that another murder was committed by the same person. Edith: Jeanette Nolan. Marie: Billie Bird.

(13) THIS OLD HOUSE (CC)—Restoration
A look at computer-aided design methods for post-and-beam buildings. Steve Thomas is the series host.

(21) NOVA (CC); 60 min.

(30) IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT (CC); 60 min.
The Sparta police use a ruse to get solid evidence on the person they believe killed one of the town's more disagreeable citizens, who was despised by his wife, his son and his workers. Gillespie: Carroll O'Connor. Tibbs: Howard Rollins. Bubba: Alan Autry.

Guest Cast

Jefry ..... Grainger Hines
Rochelle ..... Clare Wren
Jon ..... Tim Griffin
Clarence ..... Mert Hatfield

(41) DULCE DESAFIO—Novela; 60 min.

(47) PELICULA—Comedia; 2 hrs.
"Más vale pájaro en mano . . . " (Mexicana; 1987) Las aventuras de Rafael Lara, un mecánico mujeriego. Rafael Lara: Lalo "El Mimo."

(49) AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (CC); 60 min.
"Forever Baseball" celebrates the national pastime. See the Close-up on this page.

(A&E) MOVIE—Comedy-Drama; 2 hrs., 30 min. ★★★
"Alice's Restaurant." (1969) Arlo Guthrie in a dramatization of his hit song about '60s counterculture. Pat Quinn, James Broderick. [A&E is advising viewer discretion.]

(AMC) THIS IS YOUR LIFE

(CNN) LARRY KING LIVE; 60 min.

(DIS) MOVIE—Comedy; 1 hr., 50 min. ★★★
"Houseboat."

(DSC) BEYOND 2000—Magazine; 60 min.

(ESN) BOXING (CC); 2 hrs.
Scheduled: Tracy Spann vs. Bryant Paden in a 12-round lightweight bout, telecast from Atlantic City. (Live)

(LIF) MOVIE—Drama; 2 hrs.
"Kidnapping of Baby John Doe." (1986) A concerned doctor and nurse are sued when they perform a lifesaving operation on a handicapped infant whose father forbade the surgery. Geoffrey Bowes, Jayne Eastwood.

(NIK) GREEN ACRES—Comedy

(TNN) NASHVILLE NOW—Variety; 90 min.
Included: Jerry Clower. (Live)

(USA) MOVIE—Thriller; 2 hrs. ★
"Party Line." (1988) It's a wrong number for the callers who hook up with a homicidal brother and sister. Dan: Richard Hatch.

close up

FOREVER BASEBALL

Kid Gleason and Connie Mack, circa 1929

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (CC)
TUES. 9 PM (49), 10 PM (13)
WED. 9 PM (50)
THURS. 2 PM (49)

"I see great things in baseball," Walt Whitman wrote. Many great moments are splendidly recalled in this paean to the national pastime, which blends archival clips and the keen observations of authors, artists and others.

Writer-narrator Irv Drasnin's essay celebrates the game's myths and miracles, its heroes and heartbreaks. "It's a game of leisure," John Updike says, "interspersed with these sudden electrical moments when you got to produce." There is footage of the legendary producers—Ruth, Gehrig, Cobb, Mathewson, Williams, DiMaggio, Paige, Feller, Robinson, Mays, Aaron, Mantle. There is also rare film of the 1919 Chicago White Sox, who came to be known as the Black Sox when some players conspired *not* to produce at the World Series, setting the stage for the "biggest scandal in American sports." A decade later Kid Gleason, the manager of that team, is seen bantering with Connie Mack. "Name me a few that plays for fun," Mack asks. Gleason: "I can't do that right now, boss."

The hour also includes a clip from the 1899 Edison film "Casey at the Bat"; a recitation (circa 1922) of the poem by DeWolf Hopper, who is said to have performed it on-stage more than 10,000 times; and a replay of the "shot heard 'round the world"—Bobby Thomson's homer off the Dodgers' Ralph Branca in 1951 that sent the Giants to the World Series. (60 min.)

After eyeing hurricanes, you can 'Experience' baseball

JOHN VOORHEES
Times television columnist

There should be joy in Mudville, at least tonight, as PBS' great "American Experience" series airs "Forever Baseball" at 9 on Channel 9.

It's a slick and entertaining documentary by Irv Drasnin, a veteran of any number of "CBS Reports" and "Frontline" documentaries, as well as last season's fascinating "Radio Priest" on "American Experience."

Drasnin, who also narrates his film, is obviously in love with baseball and this celebration of the sport comes perilously near a valentine to the game. What keeps even a nonfan interested in "Forever Baseball" is its cornucopia of old films relating to the subject, going all the way back to an 1899 Thomas Edison film version of "Casey at the Bat," and scenes accompanied by every possible interpretation of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on the soundtrack.

Drasnin's thesis is that baseball is a metaphor for America – a lot of freight for a relatively simple game and an hour of TV to carry. And to bolster that thought, Drasnin has fielded a team of literary hard-hitters, from Walt Whitman to John Updike. Sometimes the writers tend to strike out from trying too hard, but Drasnin hits a real home run with the films, films that recall everything from baseball cards to Little League games.

There's a montage of presidents throwing out the first ball of the season; some funny scenes of the quintessential spring-training workouts; a visit to a museum where baseball paintings are on view; Buster Keaton appearing in an early film; as well as a 1917 dramatic filmed called "The Pinch Hitter"; even a segment of a work called "The Baseball Cantata," and, of course, the climactic moments of the famed 1951 game between the Dodgers and Giants.

He supports his belief in how baseball has become a part of the fabric of our past by showing us a quick parade of past greats – DiMaggio, Feller, Paige, Ruth, Robinson, Mays. The film was finished before the recent Pete Rose scandal, although Drasnin does refer to the infamous 1919 World Series fix, and if this film had been done a year from now Drasnin would probably have included footage to show that even an earthquake can't enliven a dull World Series.

At its best, however, the film shows us anonymous fans and anonymous players whose enthusiasm for baseball truly corroborates Drasnin's belief that baseball is our national pasttime.

Blowin' in the wind: While the episode of "Nova" that PBS airs at 8 tonight (and noon tomorrow) on Channel 9 was filmed before Hurricane Hugo, the program, titled "Hurricane!", still has a gripping fascination to it, coming so closely on the heels of the recent devastation.

Much of the footage deals with Hurricane Gilbert which blew into the Yucatan Peninsula in 1988 and eventually reached a small part of Texas. And while there's a good deal of information here about tracking hurricanes and how today's technology is being harnessed to that purpose – some of which we saw recently as background while TV tracked Hugo – the film's real power comes in the footage of hurricanes from the past. Films of nature's fury – winds of incredible speeds, waves of unbelievable heights lashing the shores – are totally compelling, almost incomprehensible, no matter how many times one sees them, and they're particularly fascinating when viewed from the dry safety of one's living room.

And all of the films about how hurricanes work and how man is attempting to deal with them, like films about preparations and warnings for earthquakes, are never as compelling as the event itself.

However, even more intriguing than the footage of hurricanes in this film is a segment shot aboard a research plane that is tracking a hurricane and does so by flying into the eye of the hurricane, where there is calm and where the cameraman can look straight down to the water.

This film, like Hugo and the recent earthquake, are reminders that, like it or not, nature still is in charge.

Video notes: In a week devoted to American music, cable's Arts & Entertainment airs a profile of **Woody Guthrie** tonight at 5 and 9, then follows it at 6 and 10 with the 1960 movie about Arlo Guthrie, **"Alice's Restaurant."** . . . Channel 28 shows another episode of PBS' **"Visions of the Constitution"** series at 8 tonight, this one focusing on the American judicial process. . . . Channel 28 presents the episode of PBS' **"Art of the Western World"** that looks at work by **Leonardo** and **Michelangelo,** tonight at 9. . . . Channel 5 begins election coverage at 10 tonight. . . . PBS' **"America's Century"** looks at "The Limits of Power," in the episode airing at 10 tonight. . . . Talented **Elayne Boosler** is the guest on **"The Arsenio Hall Show"** tonight at 10 on Channel 13 and 11 on Channel 12.

Irv, Great show!! Boston Globe
Thought you'd enjoy this. Don

Broadcast Notes

Ch. 2 scores with 'Forever Baseball'

By Joseph P. Kahn
GLOBE STAFF

This past season was hardly baseball's finest. From Wade & Margo to Steve Garvey, from Pete Rose's gambling chits to the deaths of Bart Giamatti and Donnie Moore, it seemed to slide, as effortlessly as Rickey Henderson swiping second, from low comedy to high tragedy. Finally, of course, there was the earthquake that shook the Bay Area, punctuated by one of the dullest World Series ever played. Not even the welcome departure of Jim Rice and Bob Stanley from the Red Sox did much to cheer local fans of the national pastime.

Happily, PBS comes along tonight (Channel 2, 9 p.m.) with a chapter of "The American Experience" that reminds us why we became baseball fans in the first place. And while "Forever Baseball" may not be the definitive work on baseball-as-America's-connective-tissue – a theme which, let's face it, has been pitched more often than Nolan Ryan – it does its job quite adequately. More than adequately, in many instances.

Don't tune in to "Forever Baseball" expecting a rundown on current superstars; you won't see much footage from any season later than, say, 1955. And don't expect a documentary heavy on stats, pennant winners or All-Star teams. Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Satchel Paige are all represented here, but no more so than a handful of anonymous Little Leaguers who play the sport as much for the fun as the glory.

Also present are such baseball-loving literati as John Updike, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Daniel Okrent. Their manifest passion for the game is hardly news to serious baseball fans (or literature fans, for that matter), but what they have to say is worth hearing again. Updike sees "tribal myths . . . at the center of our identity." Goodwin recalls learning baseball from her father and how that experience shaped her entire approach to history.

Okrent, perhaps the most accessible of all these observers, speaks of the game's "suction on [the writer's] imagination" and makes this telling comment: "Even more than playing it, I like to watch it. And even more than watching it, I like to think about it." Warm words to carry us through the Hot Stove season and into spring training.

Credit writer-producer Irv Drasnin for also having put together some truly vintage film clips, including Bob Feller on the family farm and Lou Gehrig in a cowboy movie. And for frustrated Giants fans, take heart: Bobby Thomson's Shot Heard 'Round The World in the 1951 playoff game against Brooklyn looks as fresh as if it happened yesterday. Come to think of it, bring on those A's again. Redemption, after all, is just another word for "extra innings."

Longtime manager leaves WVBF-FM

By Susan Bickelhaupt
GLOBE STAFF

Cari Pahigian, hired less than a month ago at WVBF-FM (105.7), was elevated yesterday to the job of station manager when Ken Spitzer announced his resignation.

Pahigian, who has been a consultant for various radio groups and was station manager of WBZ-AM (1030), was hired recently to be head consultant at 'VBF.

Spitzer said he wants to stay in radio but has no definite plans yet, and stressed that he is leaving the station on good terms.

"I'm an anachronism in radio," he said. "I've worked for one man, one owner for 18 years in a top-10 market. Over those years, I've gotten an awful lot from him, and have achieved most of the goals I said I would."

Spitzer has been manager of the station for the past seven and a half years under owner Richard Fairbanks.

• • •

Newspaper columnist Howie Carr will be back on TV next week when he joins the "Ten O'Clock News" on WGBH-TV (Ch. 2). Carr, who writes for the Boston Herald, has reported for Ch. 2 and for WLVI-TV (Ch. 56).

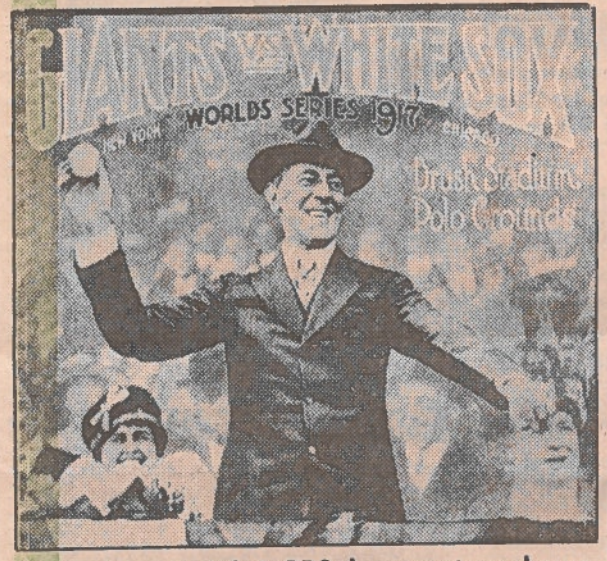
Carr will roam Boston with a video crew to provide him with material for his weekly column, which will air on Wendesday nights.

Tuesday, November 7, 1989

S.F. Chronicle

JOHN CARMAN

TELEVISION



Poster from tonight's PBS documentary shows President Woodrow Wilson tossing out ball

National Pastime Gets Its Due

By coincidence, PBS carries a sparkler of a show called "Forever Baseball" on the same day that voters decide the fate of baseball in San Francisco.

It should have been on last night. The program might have served as a timely reminder that baseball is a treasure built on more than China Basin landfill.

"Forever Baseball" (9 p.m. on channels 6 and 9) is part of the "American Experience" series on PBS. Here's some of what series host David McCullough says in his introduction:

'Some folks never get over it when the home team moves

"A lot of what we feel about baseball, I'm sure, has to do with pride in that particular place we call our own. It's the New York Yankees, after all. It's the St. Louis Cardinals, the Baltimore Orioles that we care so much

the home team moves away"

Baltimore Orioles that we care so much about.

"Some people never get over it when the home team is sold or moves away. That's something I've never had to contend with, thank goodness. The Pittsburgh Pirates are still in Pittsburgh."

Where but baseball, McCullough muses, is the wholé object of the game to reach home?

Written, produced and narrated by Irv Drasnin, the documentary itself is an unabashed love letter to the great American game — the *only* game, Babe Ruth said.

Drasnin seems keenly aware that baseball has become a magnet for the literati over the past few decades.

The Ritual of Summer

They've told us the game is in the national bloodstream because it's a ritual repeated summer after summer beyond living memory, because the clock can't tyrannize it, because it's a game of individuals within a team framework, because it's attached to the right seasons on the calendar, and because the ball is tossed through generations of fathers and sons.

You've heard these things a thousand times before, Drasnin concedes within the narration. And now, he adds a bit apologetically, a thousand and one times.

But he needn't apologize. Sometimes the roundest cliches are still the right words. Drasnin gives us John Updike, no less, to remind us admiringly that baseball is "a game of leisure interspersed with those sudden electric moments when you've got to produce."

Visually, between the interviews, Drasnin takes the viewer on an evocative excursion through archival film. The Giants celebrate a pennant in 1905. The 1919 Chicago Black Sox smile into the camera. Brooklynites turn out for opening day at Ebbets Field. Bobby Thompson breaks hearts in Brooklyn with the 1951 shot heard 'round the world. Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio give batting tips to attentive boys.

Playing for Fun and Profit

He's also found Lou Gehrig acting in a cowboy movie, and Buster Keaton stepping to the plate in a baseball movie. And Connie Mack chewing the fat with Kid Gleason, thinking about the A's on his payroll and saying, "Don't you think though, today, Kid, joking aside, that most of these players ought to be playing for the fun of it?"

Both men contemplate that for a moment and break into laughter. Had Mack faced the $3 million-a-year prospect of signing free agent Rickey Henderson in 1989, he'd probably have wept.

"Forever Baseball" puts a nifty piece of its own film together at a minor league game in which the Pittsfield (Mass.) Mets go through a daintily balletic exercise positioning themselves for a pitch, then explode into action at the crack of an opponent's bat.

Beyond the pure entertainment, the program succeeds in lacing baseball tightly into American culture. It's been a port of entry into the national community for succeeding waves of underclasses, and a common institution nearly as old as the Republic itself.

Updike has the 150-year continuum of baseball memories in mind when he quotes Proust — "The past is paradise." One summer soon, San Franciscans may know exactly what that means.

Chicago Tribune Tuesday, November 7, 1989

For the boys of all summers, forever

I get a little uneasy when people try to intellectualize baseball, and knowing that the latest edition of "The American Experience—Forever Baseball" (9 p.m. Tuesday, WTTW-Ch. 11) was to feature quotes from Proust and Walt Whitman, and interviews

TV review

with John Updike and Stephen Jay Gould, made me almost a nervous wreck. Gould is a paleontologist, for Babe Ruth's sake!

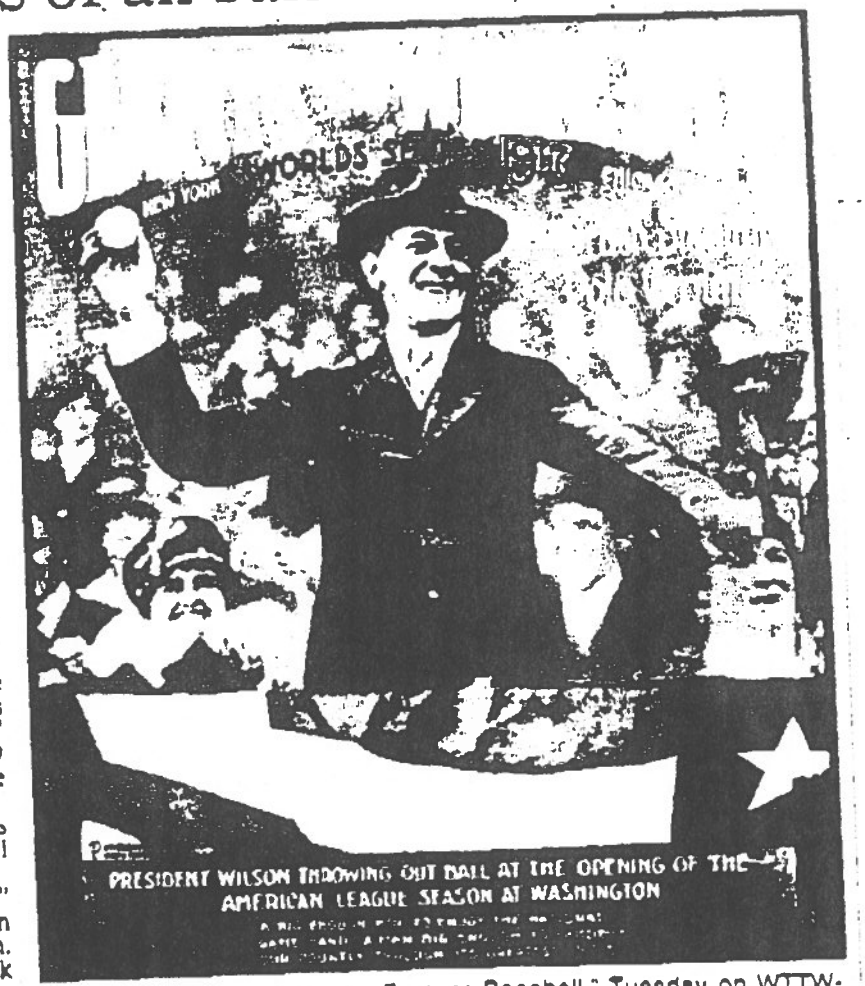
But I'm pleased to report that this one-hour documentary is a splendid and spunky show that explores what baseball means to America.

Produced and narrated by Irv Drasin, "Forever Baseball" is a romantic, nostalgic, enlightening and enjoyable romp.

It doesn't employ a lot of game footage. No need with such clips as Connie Mack and "Kid" Gleason, manager of the 1919 "Black Sox," recalling in what are now the old days, their own go old days, and pictures of kids playing on sandlots and in ball parks throughout the country.

The voices of the "intellectuals" that pepper the program are often incisive and always full of warmth. When even the smartest guys talk baseball, they are little kids.

Rick Kogan



"The American Experience—Forever Baseball," Tuesday on WTTW-Ch. 11, explores what the game means to America.